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OSA-3029/67

19 September 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy for Operations, OSA

SUBJECT : Test Program for Mid-Air Modification of
the 35-Foot Cygnus Parachute Canopy

PURPOSE:

1. The purpose of the mid-air modification is to make the parachute steerable and more stable by cutting suspension lines on the inside of each rear riser after the parachute is fully opened. The modification will be similar to the mid-air modification (four-line-cut) approved on all Air Force 28-foot canopies. If the mid-air modification proves feasible on the 35-foot canopy it will enable the pilot to make 360° turns during descent, and survey the surrounding area for roads, streams, enemy action, etc., and steer to a good landing area. The present configuration of the canopy makes the parachute almost impossible to maneuver, even by a skilled parachutist.

2. The test program will be supervised by Headquarters Training and Equipment Branch, Intelligence Division/O/OSA. All tests will be conducted at using existing equipment and aircraft. Costs not to exceed \$500.

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3. Equipment necessary to conduct the test program is in stock at and consists of the following:

- a. Two (2) Cygnus 35-foot personnel canopies (used).
- b. Two (2) T-10 parachute assemblies, minus canopies.

Cygnus canopies will be packed in the T-10 parachute containers.

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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EQUIPMENT REPAIR:

4. After each jump the suspension lines that were cut for the modification will be replaced at the base parachute shop.

AIRCRAFT FOR DROPS:

5. Detachment aircraft will be used (helicopter, C-47, or C-130) in conjunction with regularly scheduled flights.

PHOTO COVERAGE:

6. Photo coverage will be furnished by the detachment photo shop.

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TEST JUMPS:

7. Test jumps will be made by [] and detachment parachutists. Jump altitude will be approximately 3,000 feet above terrain, with parachute opened by static line. Two (2) jumpers will exit on each pass; one will perform mid-air modification, the other will be for control.

NUMBER OF JUMPS:

8. The number of jumps needed to complete the test program will be determined by Headquarters Training and Equipment Branch.

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Chief, Intelligence Division
Office of Special Activities

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